

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 823

By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to recognize Lana Seivers on the occasion of her retirement as Tennessee's Commissioner of Education.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Lana Seivers is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for more than thirty years in the State's school systems and for five years as the Tennessee Commissioner of Education; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Seivers will be taking a much deserved retirement from this post on February 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, a native of Clinton, Lana Seivers graduated from Clinton High School in 1968 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1968, a Master of Science in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Tennessee in 1984, and a Ph. D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Tennessee in 2003; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant committed to the welfare of her community, Commissioner Seivers began her long and respectable career in 1972 in the Oak Ridge school system, for which she was a teacher at Willow Brook Elementary, Glenwood Elementary, Elm Grove Elementary, Jefferson Junior High School, and Robertsville Junior High School. She additionally served the Oak Ridge school system as the Director of Early Childhood Education and as the Assistant Principal and Principal of Linden Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Lana Seivers evinced her significant leadership abilities as the Superintendent of Clinton City Schools from 1988 until 2003, at which time Governor Phil Bredesen appointed her as the Tennessee Commissioner of Education and leader of the State's 1,677 public schools; and

WHEREAS, accomplishing many laudable initiatives in her time as Commissioner of Education, Ms. Seivers has demonstrated a deep commitment to improving educational opportunities for students by developing and implementing a universal pre-kindergarten program which serves more than 17,000 students across the state, reforming the State's school funding system, and increasing teacher salaries; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Seivers is an active and important part of her community and profession and has played an important role in the leadership of many worthy organizations, including the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, the Tennessee Children's Cabinet, the Tennessee Jobs Cabinet, the University of Tennessee Advisory Board, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Southern Regional Education Board, the Education Commission of the States, and the American Association of School Administrators; and

WHEREAS, she also has contributed her time and numerous talents to the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees, the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Tennessee Labor and Workforce Development Board, the Oak Ridge Methodist Medical Center Board of Directors, the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and the Tennessee Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities, to which she was appointed by Governors McWherter and Sundquist; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career of exemplary public service, Commissioner Seivers has earned numerous awards, including the BellSouth Power to Lead Technology Grant, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Distinguished Educational Achievement Award, the Tennessee Education Association Presidential Merit Award, and the Middle Tennessee State University Distinguished Alumni Award for Professional Achievement; and

WHEREAS, Lana Seivers is fortunate to share both love and companionship with her son, Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Seivers exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Lana Seivers has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend to Lana Seivers our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from the post of Tennessee Commissioner of Education and every continued success in her future endeavors, as we sincerely thank her for more than thirty years of loyal service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.